

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 22, 2005 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-30 are in the case. Claims 14, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4, 11-20, and 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 5-10, 21, 22, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Additionally, the drawings and specification are objected to for various informalities.

By this amendment, claims 1-30 have been cancelled and claims 31-51 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, claims 31-51 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks, is therefore respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for failure to include reference numerals 240 and 241. Additionally, the drawings stand objected to for failure to show a "receptacle," as recited in claims 13, 14, 25, and 26.

The enclosed Replacement Sheets incorporate changes to correct errors in the drawings previously filed. Copies of the previously filed drawings are also enclosed and marked to show what changes were made to generate the Replacement Sheets. The Replacement Sheets contain no new matter.

As can be seen, the Replacement Sheets add reference numerals 240 and 240. Reference numeral 240 now indicates where the “receptacle” is shown in the drawings. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification stands objected to for failure to provide antecedent basis for “a front support” and “a rear support,” as recited in claims 7 and 29. By this paper, claims 7 and 29 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot. Additionally, the claims now pending recite neither “a front support” nor “a rear support.” Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 14, 16, and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14, 16, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action objects to Applicant’s use of the phrases “the receptacle open below” and “selectively and substantially fixedly securing the vehicle.”

By this paper, claims 14, 16, and 28 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is now moot. Additionally, the claims now pending recite neither of the phrases objected to. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 11-20, and 23-29 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 11-20, and 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bradley. For a prior art reference to anticipate, every element of the claimed invention must be identically disclosed in a single prior art reference. Moreover, those elements must be arranged or connected together in a single reference in the same way as specified in the patent claim.

By this paper, claims 1-4, 11-20, 23-29 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is now moot. Additionally, with respect to Applicant's now pending claims, Bradley cannot meet the foregoing test for anticipation.

For example, with respect to claims 31-40, 50, and 51, Applicant finds in Bradley no "support to directly contact the cargo hold and remove from the plurality of wheels at least a portion of the weight of the cargo," as required by Applicant. Rather, Applicant finds that Bradley discloses "holding dogs O by which the cars are clamped to the dumping frame during the discharging operation." (Bradley Figure 3 and page 2, lines 6-9.) With respect to claims 41-49, Applicant finds in Bradley no "support to directly contact the cargo hold and resist deflection of the cargo hold toward the bearing surface," as required by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 5-10 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley in view of Propst. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (See MPEP 2143.)

By this paper, claims 5-10 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is now moot. Additionally, with respect to Applicant's now pending claims, the combination of Bradley and Propst cannot meet the foregoing test for obviousness.

With respect to claims 31-40, 50, and 51, Applicant finds in Bradley no teaching or suggestion of a "support to directly contact the cargo hold and remove from the plurality of wheels at least a portion of the weight of the cargo." With respect to claims 41-49, Applicant finds in Bradley no teaching or suggestion of a "support to directly contact the cargo hold and resist deflection of the cargo hold toward the bearing surface."

Similarly, Applicant finds in Propst no teaching or suggestion of a support removing from a plurality of wheels at least a portion of the weight of a cargo or a support resisting deflection of a cargo hold toward a bearing surface. Thus, lacking such teachings or suggestions, the combination of Bradley and Propst cannot properly create a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 21 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley in view of Vincent. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (See MPEP 2143.)

By this paper, claims 21 and 30 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is now moot. Additionally, with respect to Applicant's now pending claims, the combination of Bradley and Vincent cannot meet the foregoing test for obviousness.

As stated hereinabove, with respect to claims 31-51, Applicant again finds in Bradley no teachings or suggestions of the recited supports. Similarly, Applicant finds in Vincent no teaching or suggestion of such supports. Thus, lacking such teachings or suggestions, the combination of Bradley and Vincent cannot properly create a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley in view of Chosy. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (See MPEP 2143.)

By this paper, claim 22 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is now moot. Additionally, with respect to Applicant's now pending claims, the combination of Bradley and Chosy cannot meet the foregoing test for obviousness.

As stated hereinabove, with respect to claims 31-51, Applicant again finds in Bradley no teachings or suggestions of the recited supports. Similarly, Applicant finds in Chosy no teaching or suggestion of such supports. Rather, Chosy teaches "landing gear 40." Such gear may be used to support trailers when the towing vehicle is not attached. Applicant finds in Chosy no teaching or suggestion of using landing gear 40 in the manner required by Applicant's claims. Thus, lacking such teachings or suggestions, the combination of Bradley and Vincent cannot properly create a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event that the examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of any of these claims, which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this 17 day of January, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. John Pate", written over a horizontal line.

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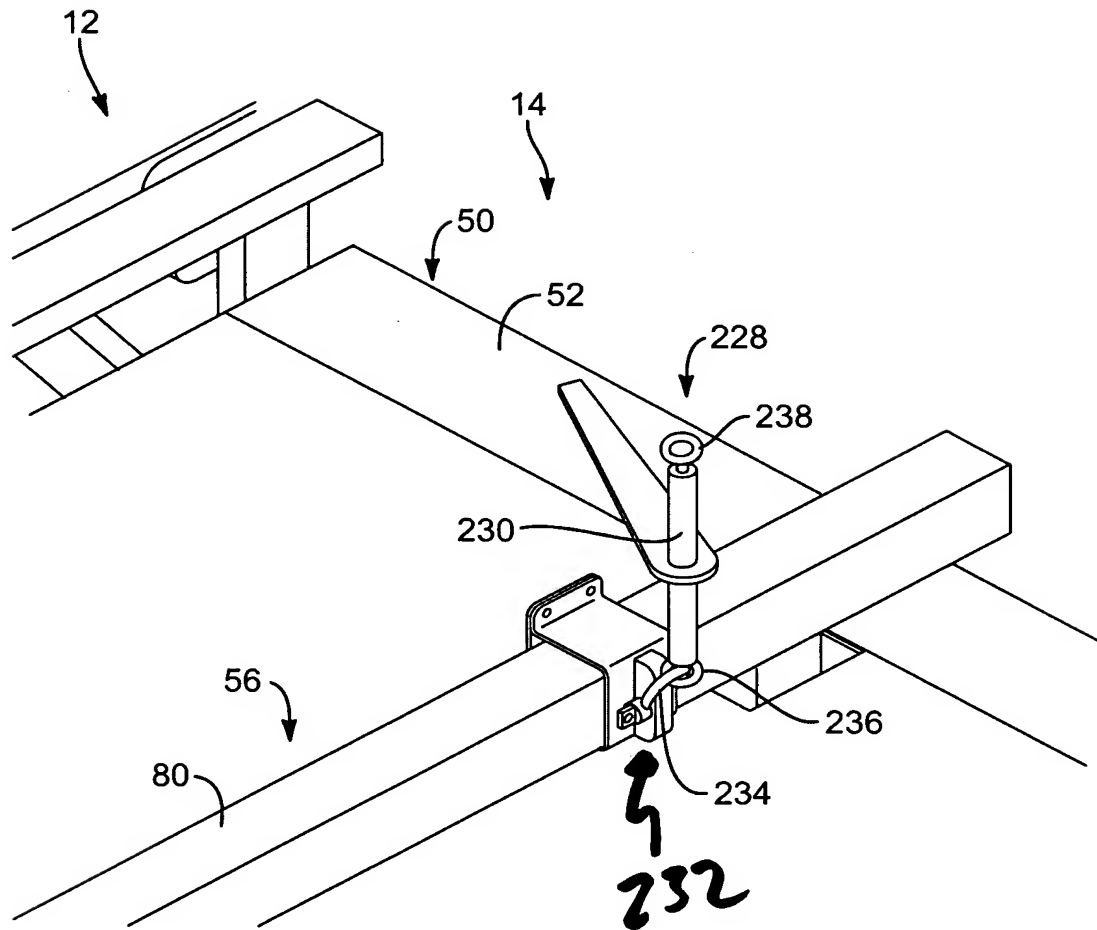


FIG. 8

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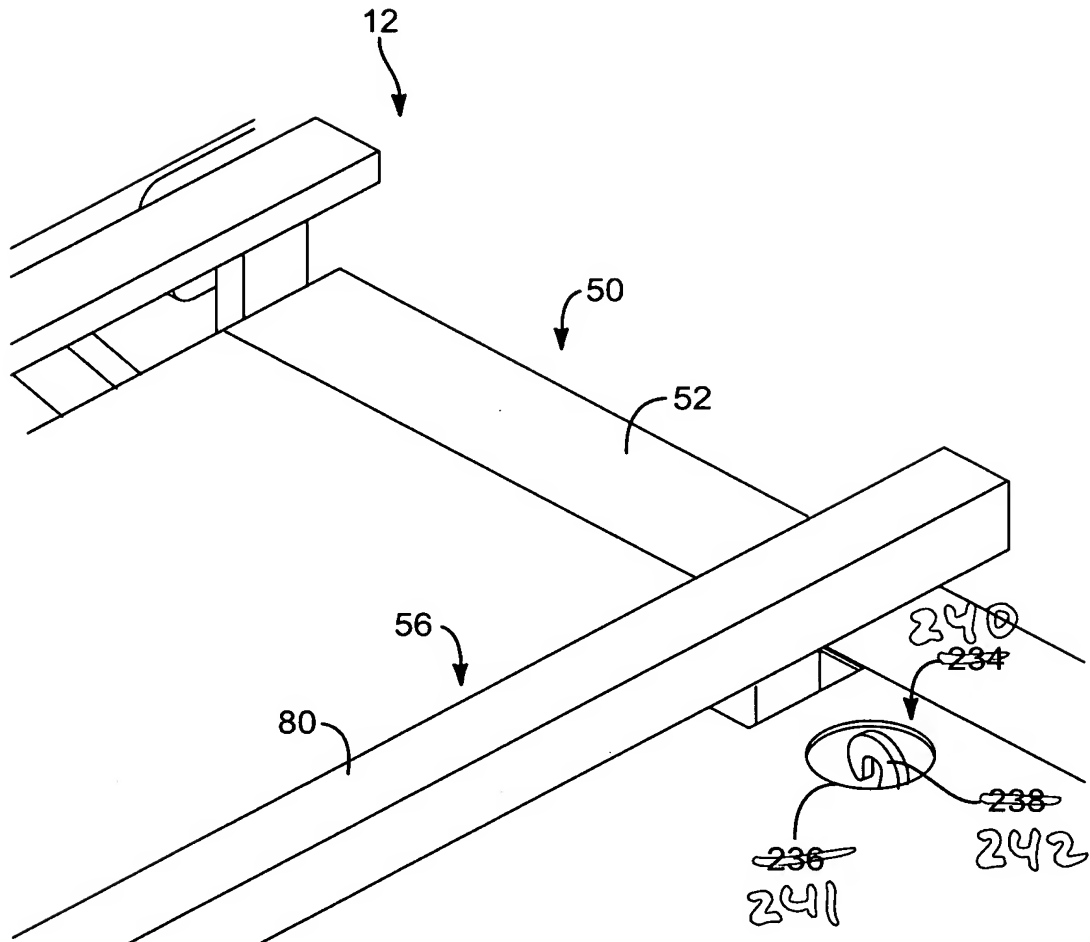


FIG. 9